

International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, October 5-9, 2020

Lindsey Sarbacker, Food Export Intern - IABC



USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

Denmark to Cull One Million Mink Due to Coronavirus – [link](#)

Denmark is the world's largest producer of mink skins. The country began instituting a series of protective measures in the summer of 2020 to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) on Danish mink farms, but outbreaks have persisted. After an increase in cases in late September, the Danish government has opted to cull mink farms infected with COVID-19, those suspected of being infected, as well as healthy herds within a radius of 8 kilometers of an infected herd. In total, roughly one million mink are expected to be culled over the coming months. While the government's decision was supported by the Danish Mink Breeders Association, the industry has expressed disappointment with the Government's compensation program

Mexico Announces Changes to its Milk Powder Import Procedures - [link](#)

Mexico announced proposed changes to its milk powder import procedures under the "Agreement under which the Secretariat of Economy emits rules and criteria to the general characterization of Foreign Trade". This GAIN report includes a Spanish-language copy of Mexico's notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and a non-official, courtesy English translation. Stakeholders should submit comments as instructed in the notification before Thursday, November 26, 2020.

India - Draft Amendments on Labeling for Packaged Foods Containing Sweeteners – [link](#)

On September 18, 2020, India notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) a draft regulation related to new labeling requirements for packaged foods containing sweeteners. The deadline to provide comments is December 1, 2020.

European Court of Justice Rules That National Schemes for Origin Labelling Should Be Justified – [link](#)

In a judgement delivered on October 1st, 2020, the European Court of Justice ruled that, to comply with EU law, national rules on origin labeling must be justified by proving that there is a link between the qualities of the foods and their origin and that the majority of consumers attach significant value to the provision of that information.

Modifications to the Mexican Foreign Trade Law Removes Prior Exemptions to Front-of-Package Labeling – [link](#)

On October 1, 2020 Mexico modified its Foreign Trade Law Agreement to comply with its new Front of-Package Labeling (FOPL) law that also went into effect on October 1. The modifications require shipments of food products previously exempted from labeling to immediately comply with the new labeling law by removing exemptions for: imported goods that would not be sold to the public in the form in which they were imported; imported goods to be used directly by a company not subject to commercialization; products destined to remain in the border area or regions of Mexico; and products imported by those who carry out marketing activities and provides restaurant, hotel, leisure, cultural, recreational, sports, educational services, research, medical and social assistance. All products within those categories—including foodservice products—must now



comply with the new labeling standard.

Spain - Spanish Livestock and Poultry Sector Update – [link](#)

The temporary closure of hotels and restaurants in response to COVID-19 lowered domestic demand for high-end meats and slashed prices for meat products such as suckling piglets, Iberico products, high valued beef cuts, and chicken. In 2020, the availability of domestic meat supplies and lower tourism will likely lower Spain's overall imports of meat. This year, Spanish exports of pork and live cattle may be the driver to alleviate the loss in sales to the hospitality sector. During the first five months of 2020, the volume of Spanish pork exports grew by 11 percent fueled by record-level exports to China. In addition, the recent outbreak of African Swine Fever in Germany may further expand Spanish pork exports to Asian markets. Spanish exports of live cattle for slaughter grew 52 percent mainly to other EU countries and the Middle East. Meanwhile, Spanish chicken meat exports decreased 20 percent.

European Commission Approves Import of GE Soybean – [link](#)

On September 28, the European Commission (EC) approved Bayer's herbicide tolerant soybean MON 87708 x MON 89788 x A5547-127, also known as XtendFlex.® The EC last authorized a GE crop ten months ago. Normally, the EC approves groups of events twice a year - during the December holiday season and in mid-summer.

Food Processing Magazine

JBS CEO: We've Turned Corner on COVID – [link](#)

The meat industry should not experience any further supply chain disruptions because of the pandemic, the U.S. head of the world's largest meat company said in a recent interview. Speaking to a panel organized by the Wall Street Journal, Andre Nogueira, CEO of JBS USA, said he was "pretty confident we are not going to have the size of the disruption we saw in April and May." He said testing and monitoring of infection levels in the locations around its plants has revealed low infection rates. JBS is bringing back to work older workers who had been sent home with pay during the first stages of the pandemic.

Nogueira also told the Journal that the pandemic highlighted how JBS needs the ability to switch quickly between products for foodservice and retail. Future processing lines will be built with that kind of flexibility in mind, he said.

Disclaimer: This list is by no means complete, for more information please refer to the links above.

Country reports were started in March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Page 2 of 2